

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

- 1        1. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating in a network having a  
2        plurality of communities each including a server, the method comprising:  
3                 receiving, from the server in a first community associated with a first  
4        service provider, a request indicating desired real-time, text-based messaging from a first  
5        terminal coupled to the first community server to a second terminal coupled to the server  
6        in a second community associated with a second, different service provider; and  
7                 processing the request, by the server in the second community, to establish  
8        a real-time, text-based messaging session between the first and second terminals through  
9        the first and second community servers.
- 1        2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if the  
2        second terminal has an established link with the second community server.
- 1        3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising sending a  
2        notification to the second terminal of the desired messaging session if the second terminal  
3        has an established link with the second community server.
- 1        4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising  
2        receiving an indication from the second terminal of whether the desired messaging  
3        session has been accepted.
- 1        5. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising sending a message  
2        to a predetermined communications device other than the second terminal if the second  
3        terminal does not have an established connection with the second community server.
- 1        6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein sending the messages includes  
2        sending to a communications device including at least one of a telephone, a pager, and an  
3        electronic mail receiver.

1           7. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising performing a reverse  
2 log on to the second terminal if the second terminal does not have an established link  
3 with the second community server.

1           8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a chat  
2 session between the first and second terminals.

1           9. - 18. (Cancelled)

1           D  
2           19. (Original) A server for use in a communications system having a plurality  
3 of communities coupled by a network, each community associated with a different  
4 service provider, the server being associated with a first one of the communities and  
comprising:

5                 an interface unit adapted to receive a contact request over the network  
6 from an entity associated with another community, the entity not logged-on to the server,  
7 the contact request indicating a request to establish a text-based messaging session with a  
8 destination terminal linked to the server; and

9                 a controller adapted to send a notification to the destination terminal of the  
10 contact request and to receive an indication from the destination terminal of acceptance  
11 of the contact request.

1           20. (Original) An article including one or more machine-readable storage  
2 media containing instructions for establishing a text-based messaging session  
3 between subscribers in a plurality of communities, each community associated with a  
4 different service provider, the instructions when executed causing a system in a first  
5 community associated with a first service provider to:

6                 receive a request from a subscriber in a second community associated with  
7 a second service provider, the request indicating a desired text-based messaging session  
8 with a subscriber in the first community;

9                 notify the subscriber in the first community of the request;

10                 determine if the subscriber in the first community has accepted the  
11 request; and

12 establish the text-based messaging session between the subscribers if the  
13 subscriber in the first community accepted.

1 21. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media  
2 contain instructions that when executed cause the system to further send signaling to  
3 establish the text-based messaging session.

1 22. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the text-based messaging  
2 session includes a chat session.

1 23. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media  
2 contain instructions that when executed cause the system to create a controller object  
3 adapted to control the text-based messaging session.

1 24. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media  
2 contain instructions that when executed cause the system to:  
3 receive a request from a subscriber in a third community associated with a  
4 third service provider for a text-based messaging session; and  
5 establish the text-based messaging session among the subscribers in the  
6 first, second, and third communities.

1 25. (Cancelled)

1 26. (Cancelled)

1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the  
2 request comprises receiving a request indicating a desired interactive, text-based chat  
3 session.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the text-based  
2 messaging session comprises an interactive, text-based chat session.

1           29. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is  
2 adapted to further send messaging to perform a reverse log-on procedure with the  
3 destination terminal.

1           30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the system to establish the text-based messaging session by  
3 establishing an interactive, text-based chat session.

1           31. (Cancelled)

1           32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 providing a web page for display at the first terminal, wherein receiving the request  
3 comprises receiving a message generated in response to a selection made in the web  
4 page.

1           33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                 providing a session object in the second community server,  
3                 wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request at the session  
4                 object in the second community server from another session object in the first community  
5                 server; and  
6                 the session object in the second community server exchanging messaging  
7                 with the first community server to establish the real-time, text-based messaging session.

1           34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                 providing a response, from the second community server, to the first  
3                 terminal to present a web page in a web browser on the first terminal; and  
4                 receiving a text message of the real-time, text-based messaging session  
5                 originated from the web browser on the first terminal.

1           35. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the interface unit  
2 is adapted to receive the contact request from a second server in the other community.

1           36. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is  
2 adapted to communicate a web page for display on the entity,

3                         the contact request comprising a message generated in response to user  
4 selection made in the web page at the entity.

1           37. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller  
2 comprises a session object,

3                         the session object adapted to exchange messaging with another session  
4 object in a second server in the other community to establish the text-based messaging  
5 session.

1           38. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is  
2 adapted to communicate a response to the contact request to present a web page in a web  
3 browser at the entity,

4                         the interface unit adapted to further receive text messaging from the web  
5 browser at the entity during the text-based message session.

1           39. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the system to receive the request at a first server in the system from  
3 a second server in the second community.

1           40. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 39, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the system to provide a web page for display at a subscriber  
3 terminal in the second community,

4                         wherein the request received at the first server comprises messaging  
5 generated in response to selection made in the web page displayed at the subscriber  
6 terminal in the second community.

1           41. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 39, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the system to:  
3                 provide a session object in the system; and  
4                 cause the session object to exchange messaging with the second server to  
5 establish the text-based messaging session.

1           42. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the system to:  
3                 communicate, in response to the request, a web page for display in a web  
4 browser at a subscriber terminal in the second community; and  
5                 receive messaging from the web browser during the text-based messaging  
6 session.

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